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EIC SUBCOMMITTEE ON REQUIREMENTS AND FACILITIES FOR COLLATION

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

30 June 1953

I. Projects Completed

A. Outline of Peripheral Economic Requirements on the USSR and Satellites. A coordinated outline, representing the interests of the IAC agencies, was completed and distributed.

B. On recommendation of the Working Group on Central Indexing, an Informal Committee of IAC Librarians was established, under the chairmanship of the CIA Librarian. This Committee has since merged with the Subcommittee on Indexing and Reference of the Advisory Committee on Foreign Language Materials (NSCID-16).

C. Index to Intelligence Periodicals. On recommendation of the Subcommittee, the CIA Library has started as of 1 January 1953 to index articles in the more significant intelligence periodicals. 25X1X4

E. A proposal by a Working Group of the Subcommittee was an important factor leading to the issuance of NSCID-16 and the establishment of an Advisory Committee for Foreign Language Publications to coordinate the interests of the intelligence community in these materials.

F. State Department instructions on economic reporting and evaluations of existing economic reporting programs are reviewed by the Subcommittee members, and their comments are consolidated by the Secretary and forwarded to REP, State. Contributions from CIA now include the economic interests of all Offices, not merely those of ORR.

G. A Guide to Economic Reporting: Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was prepared to clarify the relationship between field reporting and Washington research and to place emphasis on the types of reporting for which Moscow has a definite potential. This Guide was transmitted to the field April 30, 1953 by REP, State.

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SECURITY INFORMATION

-2-

H. A Draft Report of the Working Group on Minerals Reporting (EIC-S-12) was completed and distributed as an example of requirements drawn up on a particular subject, with collection priorities established for each country.

II. Evaluation of Work of Subcommittee

Fundamentally, the role of the Requirements Subcommittee is to act as a connecting link between the economic intelligence analysts represented by the substantive subcommittees of the EIC and the collection activities of the intelligence agencies. In performing this role the Requirements Subcommittee has two main functions: (a) to elicit from the economic intelligence analysts either through their agencies or through the substantive subcommittees of the EIC their requirements for intelligence information, and to convert these requirements into meaningful and appropriate guidance for the various types of collection activity; (b) to review and develop methods of drawing together and organizing the fragmentary information reported by the collectors in a manner which makes this information readily and systematically available for the use of the analysts.

With regard to function (a) above, although the Requirements Subcommittee has initiated a number of collection projects which should have fruitful results, the basic and continuing problem of translating statements of requirements prepared by the substantive analysts into effective guidance to collectors, has been only partially met. This failure is attributable to a number of difficulties: (1) intelligence analysts themselves tend to state their requirements in such general and all-embracing terms that their use as a guide to collectors who are concerned with specifics is extremely difficult. There is a chronic ~~apparent~~ tendency on the part of analysts to emphasize the all-embracing nature of their needs rather than to think through and distinguish those needs which are most important as against those which are of lesser importance; (2) the collectors themselves are organized into separate groups (i.e., Foreign Service, Army, Navy, and Air Force Attaches, FBID, OO/C, etc.), each of which takes direction from a separate headquarters and most of which have mechanisms already established for providing appropriate guidance to their field activities in all subject fields. Thus, for example, the Foreign Service operates under the Comprehensive Economic Reporting Program, military services have formalized programs for collection administered by their respective agencies, OO/C obtains general guidance from NSCID-7 committee, clandestine collection obtains general guidance from the IPC, and so on. In the past therefore it has been difficult for the Requirements Subcommittee to make its influence felt with regard to these collection activities. Allied to this problem is that of assuring adequate coordination of collection between the various types of collection activities. In the case of the various types of overt collection overseas, certain of the provisions of NSCID-2 which place primary responsibility for coordination upon the senior United States representatives overseas, ²⁴ is a formidable barrier to interagency coordination in Washington of collection activities.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
SECURITY INFORMATION

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SECURITY INFORMATION

-3-

In the case of the second function described above, the Requirements Subcommittee has rejected the concept of an all-embracing electronic or mechanical system which would index the total volume of economic information available to or received by the United States Government. Instead, the Subcommittee has attempted, where possible, to establish suitable indexing and collating mechanisms within those fields where the need has appeared most acute, endeavoring in each case to develop a mechanism most appropriate to the type of material and the nature of the particular subject field.

The Subcommittee believes that its accomplishments during the past year have contributed to the economic intelligence effort of the Government. The Subcommittee feels that its accomplishments, however fruitful they may be, have nevertheless been inadequate in the light of the needs of the economic intelligence community and the responsibilities which consequently rest upon the Subcommittee.

III. Future Program

The two basic problems confronting the Subcommittee have been outlined in a previous section of this report. During the coming year, the Subcommittee proposes to attack these problems along the following lines:

(a) With regard to the interlocking and inseparable problem of Requirements and Collection Guidance:

- (1) To establish closer working relationships with the substantive subcommittees of the EIC in order to become more familiar with the problems and requirements peculiar to the work of each Subcommittee, and to acquaint each Subcommittee with the type of requirement best suited to the various types of intelligence sources and the problems arising in providing guidance to the various sources. The objective of these relationships is to establish jointly clear cut and adequate principles and procedures which can be followed by the substantive subcommittees in preparing statements of requirements and priorities.
- (2) To review, in turn, insofar as practicable and appropriate, the intelligence collection programs of the various collection activities insofar as they concern economic intelligence, and to develop for each recommendations looking toward improvement and increased effectiveness of such activities.
- (3) Continue the assistance now rendered regarding the Comprehensive Economic Reporting Program, [REDACTED] and Guidance to Economic Reporting Officers behind the Iron Curtain.
- (4) To continue to investigate and make recommendations regarding new sources and new methods of collecting economic intelligence.

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(b) With regard to the organization of information available in Washington, the Subcommittee intends to continue its efforts to establish suitable indexing and collating mechanisms within those economic fields where the need appears most pressing, particularly with regard to telecommunications information and data on industrial establishments and plants.

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